SUBJECT No. 26.

'Grazing cattle in the State Forests and other reserves.

Mr. K. Ramegowda, Bowringpet Táluk.

Summary of Discussion.—At present, cattle are allowed to graze in the State Forests and other reserves during the second half of the year, *viz.*, from July to December, whereas the real difficulty for fodder is felt during the first half of the year, that is, from January to end of June. It is therefore prayed that orders may be passed to permit the grazing of cattle in the State Forests and other reserves all the year round, as this practice obtains in the British Indian Provinces, or if this is not possible, the period already allowed may be changed to the first half of the year.

Reply of Government.—Government have since published an official paper indicating the lines on which it is proposed to revise the existing rules as regards grazing facilities and have called for suggestions regarding them. The member may send up his criticisms, when the matter will receive attention.

REVENUE—(Income-tax).

(*Nos. 27 to 35.*)

SUBJECT No. 27.

(*a*) Assessment of income-tax.

(*b*) Examination of the Accounts of merchants at Táluk Headquarters for purposes of assessment of income-tax.

Messrs. G. Rajappa, Grain Merchants' Association, Bangalore, and A. Srikantappa, Bangalore District Board.

Mr. G. Rajappa in moving the subject said that Government simply assessed income-tax on the figures furnished by inexperienced persons who calculated the income on the total turn-over of the daily sales. Such a calculation was hard and unjust. Suitable arrangements should therefore be made to assess income-tax on the actual income of the merchants. He added that the merchants had to produce the account books personally for purposes of check and assessment by the District Officers. In most cases, the officers indefinitely postponed the examination of the account books. The merchants were put to expense and trouble in complying with these requirements. The income-tax officers might therefore be instructed to check the accounts at the taluk headquarters when they visited those places for *jamabandi* inspection, etc.

Mr. Ramachandra Rao Scindhe.—When Mr. Chandy was the Income-tax Commissioner, we represented to him that the Income-tax Regulation was a source of trouble to the public and that the tax was levied from many persons on income not assessable with tax. He was good enough to promise that this would be referred to the Chamber of Commerce and their opinion obtained. I would suggest that orders might be issued to the Collectors of Income-Tax to consult the prominent people of the locality before issuing notices and if the assessees were residents of a Municipality, the opinion of the Municipal Council might be taken before levying the tax.

Messrs. Mallappa, Sanjiviah, Purushothamanandagiri Gosai, Karnick Krishnamurthi Rao and two other members expressed the same opinion and agreed to the proposals made by the previous speaker and suggested that non-official gentlemen should be associated with departmental officers in the work of assessing income.

Second Member of Council.—We have adopted the Madras System. It is only when stock account is not properly kept that assessment is made on the turn-over basis, otherwise, assessment is based on accounts produced. If there is any grievance, an appeal lies to the Commissioner. Association of non-official gentlemen with the